

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
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R 061503Z JUL 77
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
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INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
AMEMBASSY TAIPEI
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
USLO PEKING
CINCPAC

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

EO 11652: NA
TAGS: CH UR
SUBJECT: KOMMUNIST ATTACKS CHINA

SUMMARY: LATEST KOMMUNIST CONTAINS STRONGLY ANTI-CHINESE ARTICLE JUSTIFYING RESUMPTION OF SOVIET POLEMICS AGAINST PEKING ON THE BASIS OF CHINA'S PERSISTENTLY ANTI-SOVIET LINE. THE ARGUMENT IN THIS ARTICLE IS CONSISTENT WITH THE SOVIET LINE OF RECENT WEEKS AS SOVIET ATTACKS HAVE RETURNED TO FULL FORCE AND THE MOST NOTABLE ASPECT OF THE PIECE IS THE APPARENT NEED FELT TO JUSTIFY RETURN TO POLEMICS. END SUMMARY.

1. KOMMUNIST NO. 9 (SIGNED TO PRESS ON JUNE 23) CARRIES AN ARTICLE BY O. BORISOV "IN A WELL-WORN RUT." THE ARTICLE

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REPEATS EARLIER THEMES THAT THE NEW LEADERSHIP IN CHINA HAS PERPETUATED MAOISM (THERE HAS BEEN NO "DEMOIZATION") AND IS INSPIRED BY MILITARISM. CHINA IS SAID TO BE IN THE THROES OF AN ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL CRISIS WHICH WILL NOT BE SOLVED BY MAOIST PRESCRIPTIONS. IN FOREIGN AFFAIRS, CHINA CONTINUES TO OPPOSE DETENTE AND UNITES WITH IMPERIALISM IN ORDER

TO SLANDER AND UNDERMINE SOVIET POLICY INITIATIVES.

2. BORISOV CLAIMS THAT "IT WOULD HAVE SEEMED" THAT SINO-SOVIET RELATIONS SHOULD IMPROVE AFTER MAO'S DEATH. AS IT HAD WHEN MAO WAS ALIVE, THE USSR PROPOSED CONCRETE STEPS TO IMPROVE RELATIONS. THE "BENEVOLENT ACTIONS" OF THE SOVIZRJUDION, HOWEVER, REMAINED UNANSWERED BY PEKING, WHICH REJECTED PROPOSALS SUCH AS COOPERATION BY SEISMOLOGISTS AND THE REESTABLISHMENT OF CONTACTS BETWEEN FRIENDSHIP SOCIETIES. THE CHINESE RESPONCE TO THESE GESTURES, BORISOV CLAIMS, HAS BEEN TO PERSIST IN ANTI-SOVIETISM.

3. COMMENT: BORISOV'S ARGUMENT IS CONSISTENT WITH RECENT SOVIET ATTACKS ON THE NEW PEKING LEADERSHIP AS MAOIST--WITH ALL WICH THAT TERM IMPLIES WHEN USED BY THE SOVIETS. HIS MENTION OF CONCRETE GESTURES IS NEW, HOWEVER (IF THESE GESTURES WRE INDEED TAKEN IN THE POST-MAO PERIOD; THE TEXT IS AMBIGUOUS ON THIS POINT), SINCE THEY HAD NOT PREVIOUSLY BEEN REPORTED. PERHAPS MOST STRIKING ABOUT THE ARTICLE IS THAT IT GIVES THE STRONG IMPRESSION OF ATTEMPTING TO JUSTIFY THE RESUMPTION OF POLEMICS, AS IF SOME STILL HAD TO BE CONVINCED THAT ATTACKS ON HUA ARE CALLED FOR AT THIS RELATIVELY EARLY STAGE IN THE POST-MAO PERIOD.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
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Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
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